

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Robert J. Small and Xiaowei Shang  
Assignee: EKC Technology, Inc.  
Title: Chemical-Mechanical Planarization Using Ozone  
Serial No.: 09/783,069 Filing Date: February 13, 2001  
Examiner: Le, Thao P. Group Art Unit: 2818  
Docket No.: M-9727 US

9/answer

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

San Francisco, California  
January 4, 2002

OK. Enter  
the new specification  
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

A restriction requirement has been received by Applicants in the above-referenced application, and a response thereto is submitted herewith. Entry of this preliminary amendment and consideration thereof are hereby requested, prior to a consideration of said response and further consideration of this application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the specification, other than the claims, with the substitute specification that appears in clean form in Appendix I hereto. (Page 13 and Page 14 of the substitute specification are blank but for the "CLAIMS" heading on Page 13.) A copy of the substitute specification that is marked to show the changes made appears in Appendix II hereto. The substitute specification includes no new matter.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4 and 12, such that they read respectively as set forth below. A copy of the amended claims, marked to show the changes made, appears in Appendix III hereto. A copy of all of the pending claims, in clean form, appears in Appendix IV hereto.

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